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Author's note

Hello! Welcome to my first completed book. There will be a sequel to this book, so—yeah, stay tuned.

This book has some characters that belong to the author who inspired me to write this—Erin Hunter.

I wish you an awesome book adventure. Now DIVE IN! :D

Alligances

Moonclan

Leader
Cometstar-a black tom with amber eyes

Deputy
Acornfall-a brown tom with black stripes

Medicine Cat
Hollyshade-a ginger and white she-cat with green eyes
Apprentice
Applepaw-a tabby tom

Warriors
Swiftblaze-a grey tom cat
Cloudfur-a pretty white she-cat
Flamewhisker-a flame-coloured tom with white paws
Russetclaw-a russet tom with a white tail tip
Apprentice-Crystalpaw
Leopardspots-a she-cat with a pelt like a leopard's
Apprentice-Moonpaw
Cedartail-a golden tom (father of Poppykit and Cinderkit)
Mossdew-a tortoiseshell she-cat with a piercing blue gaze
Birchstripe-a grey and white tom with grey paws and stripes
Blossompatch-a white she-cat with brown and yellow patches
Petalstem-pale tabby she-cat with dark patches
Lightningclaw-a yellow tom with white belly and orange eyes

Apprentices
Moonpaw-a light grey she-cat with white spots
Crystalpaw-a light grey she-cat with a white belly

Queens
Honeyspirit-an orange she-cat with dark orange stripes
Kits: Poppykit and Cinderkit

Elders
EagleEye-black and white tom, resigned due to failing sense of hearing
Mintleaf-light brown she-cat

Sunclan

Leader
Nightstar-a blue-grey tom

Deputy
Harefire-a tortoiseshell she-cat

Medicine cat
Shimmeringpool-a silver and white she-cat

Warriors
Thornleaf-a white tom with black ears and tail
Apprentice: Sunpaw
Frostwing-beautiful small white she-cat
Apprentice: Birdpaw
Mousecloud-a pale tabby tom
Icetail-a grey she-cat with black stripes and short tail
Blackear-a white tom with a black ear tip on his left
Spottedfur-a tortoiseshell tom with a green pair of eyes
Dawndusk-a beautiful black and orange she-cat
Apprentice: Bluepaw
Feathersky-a white she-cat with thick fur
Maplefur-a pale orange she-cat with white paws and tail
Olivewater-blueish black tom with a few white patches and ears
Pearlwing-a sandy grey she-cat

Apprentices
Birdpaw-a white tom with black ears and tail
Sunpaw-an orange tom with white stripes
Bluepaw-a blue-grey she-cat

Queens

Elders

Oakfoot-a white tom with two brown forepaws

Prolouge

Birdsong filled the whole starry forest. Cats started to stir as they woke, stretching out their forepaws and stifling a yawn. They headed out for the oaks, moors and rivers to hunt, calling greetings to others when passing through.

Pushing through the ferns in the oak forest, an elegant white she-cat trotted to a ginger tom who dropped to his hunter's crouch, his gaze fixed on a plump vole. She waited a fox-length away from the tom until he pounced on the vole and picked up the limp piece of prey. "Greetings, Sun." the she-cat meowed, padding forward to the tom and dipped her head. Sun turned to her. "I thought I imagined your scent," he admitted, "I assume you didn't come to me just to watch me hunt, am I right, Sky?" Sky nodded. "There's something I need to show you and Moon. Follow me."

The two cats padded out of the forest and soon arrived at the bank of a river. A silver she-cat was chatting to a brown tom. "...I was behind you, Ambertail, when—oh, hello Sun and Sky!" She nodded to them. "Hi Moon and Ambertail. I'm here to find you." Sky pointed her tail at Moon. Moon excused herself a wave of her tail and joined the group. "What do you want me for?" she asked. Sky jerked her head towards a clearing nearby, surrounded by bushes and oaks. They bounded into the clearing and sat beside a pool. Sun twitched his tail impatiently. "Sky, tell us what we're here for." he urged. Sky wrapped her tail neatly around her paws and explained,"I've brought you here to tell you about a prophecy—"

She was cut off by a shocked yowl. "Look!" exclaimed Moon, wide-eyed. Sun followed her gaze, tail held high in astonishment. Only Sky seemed calm. Though it was only dawn, the pool seemed to be darker than usual. It reflected the sun—as thin as a claw now—being eaten up by the moon. The sides of the pool were flecked with blue, representing the sky.

Sun and Moon's gaze were full of understanding. "It's an omen," Sun mewed, "it has to be. The sun's not even out yet." "B-but surely

they're too young to have such big responsibilities?" Moon stammered, her eyes fixed onto the strange sighting. Maybe, just maybe, we should wait till they're bigger..." her voice trailed off. Sky stood. "Time does not wait for anyone," she meowed, her tone solemn, "all three of us must tell those cats tonight. We will walk in their dreams. You have to understand that the clans depend on this."

The omen faded, and the pool turned transparent, showing fish swimming about peacefully. The trio padded silently out of the clearing. Ambertail still waited by the river bank, and he pricked his ears when he heard Moon. "Hey Moon! Come here if you're finished!" he called. Before Moon left, Sky whispered to Sun and Moon,"Meet me here at moonhigh. Don't mention the prophecy to *any* cat." The two nodded and Sky dismissed them with a flick of her ear.

Chapter 1

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather here beneath the Highledge for a clan meeting."

A black tom yowled from a ledge. His call swept over the clearing, summoning the clan. Cats emerged from their dens, and a light grey kit with white spots and another light grey kit with white paws padded into the clearing, tails held high. A white she-cat was on their heels, her blue gaze sweeping from one kit to the other lovingly. A grey tom was next to her, reassuring the she-cat that their daughters' pelt were fine when she vigorously licked them.

"I'm going to be the best warrior in Moonclan!" the kit with spots promised. "You're just a *kit*, Moonkit! You're not even an apprentice!" the other kit mewed. "I will be one a few heartbeats later!" Moonkit retorted. *I'll show you!* Moonkit pounced on her littermate, bowling her over and batted her ear with sheathed claws. "Moonkit! Crystalkit! Come here this instant!" their mother ordered while Crystalkit tried to push her littermate over with her hind paws. The cats untangled themselves and rushed over to the white she-cat. "But Cloudfur, we just want to play!" Crystalkit protested. Cloudfur ignored her complaint and started to lick the kits' fur again. "Swiftblaze, help me with Moonkit!" she meowed between licks. "They look fine." reassured Swiftblaze when Crystalkit jerked away.

The black tom raised his tail for silence, and beckoned Moonkit over with a flick of his tail. Moonkit felt excitement buzzing inside of her. *I'm about to be face to face with Cometstar!* The clan leader started the tradition that has been passed down to them for many moons."Moonkit, you have reached the age of six moons," he announced,"and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as Moonpaw. Your mentor will be Leopardspots." He called a she-cat with a pelt like a leopard's to climb up to the ledge. "Leopardspots, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have received excellent

training from Flamewhisker,"—he cast a glance to the senior warrior, a ginger tom—"and you have shown yourself to be loyal and courageous. You will be the mentor of Moonpaw, and I expect you to pass on your knowledge to her." Moonpaw touched noses with her mentor, and pride surged through her.

Cometstar appointed Redclaw as Crystalpaw's mentor and the clan chanted their names.

"Moonpaw! Crystalpaw!"

After the ceremony, the two new apprentices bounded to their mentors. "Can we go outside the camp?" Moonpaw asked eagerly. Leopardspots nodded. "Of course, but before training, I'll bring you to see our territory." Crystalpaw squealed with excitement and let out a little bounce. Redclaw's tail curled up in amusement. "Come on, let's go, and be careful of the thorns sticking out from the barrier!" The four walked out from the exit of the camp. Fresh forest scents overwhelmed Moonpaw.

She could hear prey scuttling under the leaves, the rustling of a lot of tree leaves all at once, and the faraway streams that marked the borders of their territory. "Isn't this so cool?" Moonpaw exclaimed to her sister. Crystalpaw nooded vigorously. *It's my first day out as an apprentice!*

Chapter 2

A mixture of pine and oaks grew around Sunpaw. He heard the peaceful meowing and the happy purring of many cats, but he was all alone, in unfamiliar territory. His home was the moors and the water, not in some shady forest. The shadows made him feel uncomfortable, as if something might be lurking in it. The leaves covered the night sky, so the breeze doesn't come at its full, and it also blocked the beautiful view of the sky and clouds.

A scent came drifting to his nose, carried by the wind, making his mouth water. *Rabbit!* He dropped into his hunter's crouch he had learned a quarter-moon ago and crept forward, his paws as light as air. Soon, he found the source of the prey-scent, it's fluffy tail bobbing while eating some white thing with leaves sprouting on top of it. *That isn't any kind of leaf I know,* thought Sunpaw, *probably some Twoleg thing.* Claws unsheathed, he pounced, only to find himself bumping into a fluffy ball of grey, speckled with white. He landed on the ground clumsily. Shaking off his dizziness, he staggered to his paws, and almost jumped when the rabbit he aimed for leaped right in front of him and escaped.

Furious, Sunpaw faced the unknown fluff which bumped him, baring his teeth. "Who's there?" The grey ball unfurled into a cat with shining blue eyes. Shaking her pelt, she steadied herself. "I should be asking you the same thing! Who are you?" the grey she-cat meowed, sounding more curious than angry. Sunpaw sniffed. *Her scent smells like...Moonclan!* "I'm Sunpaw from Sunclan. You're from Moonclan?" he added. "Moonpaw from Moonclan." She padded up to him and sniffed him. Moonpaw started asking him questions,"What does Sunclan camp look like? Does every cat in your clan has this scent? How do you manage in the moors without undergrowth?"

Sunpaw jerked away from her. *Is she mouse-brained? No cat from another clan would reveal anything, especially about their camp!* His ears pricked up when he heard a cat walking closer to him. The cat

was a pretty white she-cat. More cats followed her: a silver she-cat and a ginger tom. "Greetings, Sunpaw and Moonpaw." The white she-cat introduced herself and the others. "I'm Sky, and this is Sun and Moon." The cats behind Sky dipped their heads. "We are your ancestors, and we created the clans a long time ago." Sunpaw's jaws gaped in astonishment. *Cats from the start of the clans!* Sun stepped in front of the group. "Please follow us." The trio bounded towards a clearing surrounded by oaks and bushes. Sunpaw and Moonpaw were hot on their heels. In the middle of the clearing was a pool.

Suddenly the water turned darker, and it showed the sun being eaten by the moon. Spots of blue—exactly the colour of the sky—were all over the pool. The apprentices didn't know what to say. The sight was too overwhelming. Finally Sunpaw dared to say something. "W...what is this?" he asked, trying to make his voice steady. Moon spoke. "It's an omen." she explained.

"Sun and moon will merge together. Two will become three, and sky will save all..."

Her voice was barely a whisper when his vision blurred. Darkness swept over him, tugging him back to the waking world. With a last glimpse at Moonpaw, he woke. The first lights of dawn were leaking into the apprentices' den.

I'll talk to her this Gathering. Then we might find out what that means. Dazed, he rose and pushed the dream to the back of his mind.

Chapter 3

Moonpaw skidded through the trail to the training hollow, with her littermate and mentors alongside her. "The training hollow's a clearing, with trees thick with moss around the hollow," Leopardspots had told her when they explored the territory yesterday,"and we will practice hunting tomorrow."

But her mind was not fixed on her first training session. *The prophecy...the omen...what's that all about? Surely it has nothing to do with me? It was just a regular dream right? I'm not the right cat!* She jerked back into the present when Crystalpaw nudged her. "Stop standing around like a tree!" she teased. Her tone turned into concern. "Are you okay? First you were fidgeting in your sleep, now you're becoming a tree!"

"I'm fine. Let's keep going." Moonpaw soon forgotten about the prophecy when their mentors showed them how to stalk. "Keep your tail still," instructed Russetclaw,"and your belly needs to be careful not to brush the grass, or you will alert your prey. Now give it a try." Moonpaw instantly dropped into a crouch, keeping her belly flat, tail still. "Not bad! But also, keep your tail low." he observed. Russetclaw pointed his forepaw at a small patch of bracken. "Aim for that, and pounce when you're close enough." Moonpaw crept towards it, keeping every move in mind, and pounced when she was two mouse-lengths away. She landed squarely on the bracken, and she let out a meow of triumph. Crystalpaw's eyes were shining. "Can I try it on *real* prey?" she pleaded. Leopardspots nodded. "Okay, your mentor and I will follow you while you hunt. Don't let us distract you."

When the mentors found a place to hide themselves, Moonpaw opened her jaws, and tasted the scent of mouse a few heartbeats later. It was coming from somewhere close to the moors, not far from her. The memories of the dream came flooding back to her. *I wonder where Sunpaw is?* Creeping forward, Moonpaw soon found the mouse—plump and enough to make her mouth water. She got

distracted by the thought of the ancient cats and landed clumsily right behind the prey, and the mouse darted away from her. "Mouse dung!" Furious, she leaped after it.

The trees cleared and she emerged into an exposed land. She jumped as far and as hard as she could and caught the mouse right under her paws, finishing it with a nip on the neck. Moonpaw clamped the prey in her jaws, until she heard Leopardspots warning yell,"Moonpaw! Get back!" But it was too late. The realisation hit her in the stomach like a rock. She had crossed the border.

"Prey-stealer!" a voice shockingly familiar shouted. An orange tom with white stripes, followed by a blue-grey she-cat and a tabby tom. Leopardspots and Redclaw padded out from their hiding spot, stopping right at the border, with Crystalpaw trailing behind. "Skypool, Nightpelt, Sunpaw." Russetclaw dipped his head to each of them respectively. "We're not going to leave without an explanation, you know." Nightpelt, the tabby, meowed evenly. Moonpaw searched Sunpaw's gaze. He revealed nothing, except for the hint of desperation. "I...I accidentally crossed the border when I was chasing this mouse," she stammered, prodding the mouse she caught,"I didn't realise..." Skypool stepped forward. "You should know better. And I better not see anything like this happen again." Skypool beckoned Sunpaw over and he picked up the mouse. *Hey!* Moonpaw watched helplessly when the three cats padded away with her mouse.

Moonpaw went back to her own part of the territory, paws heavy with guilt. Crystalpaw rested her tail on her back sympathetically. "It's okay, it's an accident, remember?" Crystalpaw tried to comfort her. Moonpaw looked up. "Leopardspots, are you going to tell Cometstar about this?" she asked desperately. *I don't want to get caught in the second day of my apprenticeship!* Leopardspots hesitated, then shook her head. "No, it's fine, you were only a mouse-length away from the border."

Relief washed over her. *This is the last time I'll do that again.* But another problem welled up inside her. Crystalpaw kept glancing over her shoulder at her. At first Moonpaw was sure she was just concerned. Was her sister suspicious of her?

Chapter 4

Paws thudded the ground as Sunclan warriors bounded down the slope to the place for the Gathering. Sunpaw and Birdpaw—a white tom with black ears and tail—was among them. The bushes cleared and the group emerged into a wide open space, with three willows surrounding it. In the edge of the clearing was a huge flat rock, enough for the two clan leaders to stand on. Fallen rocks leaned against the big rock, making a ragged slope for climbing. Moonclan cats have already arrived, and they split into groups when they saw Sunclan. Cats from opposing clans huddled together, mingling the scents of them and started gossiping.

"Wow, I've never seen so many cats! And the scents! This is so fascinating!" exclaimed Birdpaw. Sunpaw just nodded. However much he wanted to agree with him, he couldn't stop thinking about the dream. *I have to find Moonpaw!* Sunpaw almost shouted her name until he found her. She was with a grey cat with a white belly, as big as Moonpaw's size, sitting next to a couple of Moonclan warriors. He bounded up to her. "Moonpaw! There you are!" He glanced awkwardly to the group of warriors. "Um, hi. I...I just wanted to talk to Moonpaw." he stuttered. He was almost glad when Moonpaw explained,"I think he just heard of me, since I was hunting near the moors yesterday. Besides, I want to get to know others." He knew she was lying, since there was a hint of nervousness in her voice.

The other apprentice next to her mewed something that sounds like curiosity, and Moonpaw replied something in return and rushed over to him. "Why did you take my mouse?" she demanded immediately. Sunpaw shrugged. "I had to put my clan first. Anyways—"

Moonclan's clan leader Cometstar yowled on top of the Highrock—it was a signal for the Gathering to start. *Mouse dung!* When the chatting died down, he began,"Prey's running well in Moonclan territory. We have appointed two new apprentices—Moonpaw and

Crystalpaw." Cats from every clan chanted their names.

"Moonpaw! Crystalpaw!" Sunpaw saw Moonpaw and her friend brighten, chins held high.

Nightstar padded forward and raised his tail for silence. "We have ourselves a new apprentice a quarter-moon ago too," he reported,"his name is Sunpaw." The chanting came once again, and Sunpaw felt as if he was once again an odinary apprentice, training to be a warrior, to serve the clan at his very best. *But I'm not,* he thought miserably, *I'm part of a prophecy. My life would never be normal.* The chanting ended, and Nightstar continued,"But recently, an intruder was found in our territory." Sunpaw felt Moonpaw stiffen beside him. *Is Nightstar going to mention her?* "Our warriors saw a rouge. His pelt was black and orange, and has a white tail-tip." Moonpaw's worry faded, replaced by curiosity.

"How did you see that rouge so clearly?" questioned Acornfall, the Moonclan deputy. "Harefire and Thornleaf drove it away with the rest of the patrol." Nightstar answered. "Unfortunately, we have spotted him a few days later in the woods. Cometstar, be careful of him, he put up quite a fight with our patrol." he warned. Gasps of shock came from the cats while the two leaders leaped down the Highrock and led the clans away.

"Moonpaw!" he called before she left. She turned. "What do you think about the prophecy? Should we tell our medicine cats?" Moonpaw shuffled her paws."I...I don't know. I'm starting to think it's not about me. It might be about the clans, not just us individually. I might tell the medicine cat when it necessary... I've got to go. Bye!" Moonpaw ran off. Sunpaw's eyes widened. *What makes you think you're not part of it?* But then he thought about it. *Sun equals to Sunclan, Moon is Moonclan! But what about Sky?*

Chapter 5

Sun and Moon will merge together.

Sky's words echoed in Moonpaw's mind. *It's about the clans, not just me and Sunpaw.* But she still had her doubts about that idea. *But why would the ancients come to me, a new apprentice, instead of a fully-experienced warrior or Hollyshade the medicine cat?* Crystalpaw nipped her suddenly. "Hey! What was that for?" Moonpaw demanded. "To see if you really have become a tree!" Crystalpaw teased. "Trees move their leaves when the breeze comes!" Moonpaw retorted. She cuffed her sister on the ear. Crystalpaw bowled her over and pinned her down. Thrashing about, she tried to break free."Moonpaw, Crystalpaw! This isn't the time for playing! You're falling behind!" A grey and white warrior called. "We're coming, Birchstripe!" Moonpaw answered.

When the group of cats almost arrived into camp, Moonpaw scented something unfamiliar. "Do you smell that?" Moonpaw asked. Crystalpaw nodded, jaws open and ears pricked. The other cats seemed to smell it too, and Cometstar quickened his pace. Eventually they broke into a run, and bashed through the thorn barrier. Moonpaw's jaws almost fell out when she saw a black and orange cat. *The rouge!* But the rouge almost seemed friendly. Some young warriors who did not go to the Gathering were all around him, not unsheathing claws or anything, just plain chatting and gossiping. The older warriors stayed quite far from Finn. *They obviously don't like him...I don't like him either. Something about him makes me feel uncomfortable.*

The clan leader padded towards the rouge. The rest of the clan parted to give way. "Greetings," he meowed, "I'm Cometstar, leader of this clan. May I ask who you are?" His gaze gave nothing away. "I'm Finn, and I sometimes wander here in the forest." the rouge replied levelly. "Some of your warriors found me and brought me back. It was a nice thing to do, to share food and shelter. I owe you a debt." *How does he know about warriors?* Moonpaw wondered. *And*

wouldn't the warriors have drove you away already?

Crystalpaw has already rushed off to meet Finn. For a heartbeat Moonpaw thought she had forgotten the warning of the rouge, but when she asked her, she had told her that she was trying to get information about him. "Now sit down and listen." ordered Crystalpaw. "Where did you come from?" asked a grey kit. Honeyspirit, the mother of Poppykit and Cinderkit—the grey kit—used her tail to wrap around the kit. "I'm sorry Finn, but Cinderkit needs to rest now." she apologised. Moonpaw could tell that she wanted to stay away from Finn. "I'm not sleepy!" Cinderkit objected while Honeyspirit picked her up by the scruff and hurried away.Finn answered the kit's question anyways. "I'm from nowhere," he meowed,"I travel everywhere to learn new stuff. I don't even remember where I started from."
"What do you think of your clan or clanmates?" Finn asked.
"Caring." Cedartail replied while passing by. "Cooperative." Birchstripe answered. Others commented eagerly about their home and friends.

Mossdew glared at Finn for a heartbeat, then padded away to the Sunrock, far from the entrance of the nursery where the rouge is. Curious, Moonpaw left Crystalpaw with Finn and bounded after Mossdew. "Mossdew? Are you okay? You don't seem to enjoy Finn being in our camp." she observed. Mossdew hesitated, then asked,"Do you like him?" Moonpaw shook her head. "He makes me feel uncomfortable." she confessed. Mossdew nodded thoughtfully and reaveled something big.

"A moon ago before you were born, before I was made a warrior, a cat named Sol, whose pelt was exactly like Finn's, came to the clans. I saw him, and the patrol tried to drive him out, until he told us that he would leave soon, but just needed some shelter. We brought him into the camp and told Cometstar about him. He agreed to let him be in the clan for three days." Moonpaw nodded eagerly. She wanted to take in as many information as she can. *Maybe that's the "darkness" Sky mentioned in the prophecy!* "After those days," Mossdew continued,"he really left and we all thought we would see the last of him. But then he was spotted with Sunclan warriors. Days later, Sunclan attacked us through the dirtplace tunnel at

night. It was a vicious battle, as I remember it was. The problem was how did Sunclan find their way through the dirtplace tunnel? And it was actually—" "Sol?" Moonpaw cut through the story. Mossdew nodded.

Moonpaw turned to find Crystalpaw, who was already rushing back to her. "Hi, sorry I didn't come with you." Crystalpaw apologised, though she wasn't serious. "Finn has some interesting stories!" Crystalpaw continued. Moonpaw's eyes widened. *Does she like Finn? Doesn't she think he's...I don't know, weird?* Crystalpaw seemed to understand. "What? No, no, no! I don't like him a lot. He's a rouge anyways. But I do like his stories."

Her sister licked her between the ears. "Whatever you want to do with him, I'll be on your side!" Crystalpaw reassured. Since Moonpaw knew about the prophecy, things weren't that easy.

But now she felt safe. Very safe, along with her sister's support.

Chapter 6

Sunpaw curled up in his den, with Birdpaw next to him. She was fast asleep. Sunpaw let darkness sweep over him, hoping to find the ancient cats. In a flash, Sunpaw was in a starry forest. *This must be Starclan.* His paws thudded the soft grassy ground while he was running on the moors, letting the breeze brush his fur. Cats with different fur colours and sizes gossiped in groups all over the place, but they all have the same starry pelt.

On the way to the forest where he found Sky, he spotted a brown tom. His jaws gaped in shock. "Ambertail!" Sunpaw almost burst with excitement. His father was right there, alive and well! A few moons ago, Ambertail got greencough and got murdered for an unknown reason, but that's a story for another time. Sunpaw leaped after his father. "Where are you going?" he asked. Ambertail pointed his muzzle at a silver she-cat. "I'm going to meet her." he explained. Was that Moon? The she-cat gave him a tiny nod, then murmured something to Ambertail and trotted to Sunpaw, leaving Ambertail behind. "What do you want, Sunpaw?" she asked in a friendly tone.

"I wanted to speak to you, about the prophecy. Where's Sun and Sky?"

Moon glanced around nervously. "Hush, little one, we don't want every cat to know about your destiny."

So it was about me and Moonpaw individually! "There's no need to find them. I know as much as they do." Moon spoke without a doubt. "What's the darkness mentioned in the prophecy?" he asked in a whisper. "Darkness comes in different ways, and it's up to you to decide what is darkness and what's not."

*****

Leaves rustled as Sunpaw was flung back to the waking world. *Was that me? Did I wake anyone?* Birdpaw's snoring told him he didn't. The leaves rustled again. *Who is that?* As silent as a feather falling,

Sunpaw slid out of the apprentices' den. He got a glimpse of a short grey tail. *Icetail?* Sunpaw followed her scent. Quickening his pace, he broke into a run. After a few heartbeats, he scented other cats. *Blackear! And Spottedfur!* Their scent grew stronger in the bit of forest at the border. Sunpaw climbed a tree and looked down. The three cats he scented were there, along with a black and orange cat. *That's the rouge!*

"What did you want, Finn?" Blackear demanded. "What do you think of your clan life?" the rouge Finn asked calmly, his orange gaze revealing nothing. "It's *terrible*. We have to remember the good-for-nothing 'warrior code', even while we're fighting! How are we supposed to concentrate?" Blackear complained. "It never suited us anyways." Icetail added. Spottedfur questioned,"Why did you bring us here? We were just *kits* when we arrived!" Sunpaw almost gasped. *I never knew!* "You are born in Bloodclan, so you are loyal to Bloodclan, am I correct?" Finn asked. Blackear and Icetail nodded, and Spottedfur followed suit. "Good. Because when Bloodclan attacks, they'll need to know every bit of this place."

"But what about Moonclan territory?" Spottedfur asked. "I've recruited two of them." meowed the rouge. "They're Petalfur and Cedartail." "*Cedartail?"* exclaimed Blackear. "He has *kits*! He'd do anything to protect them!" "I thought you wanted to eliminate the weak." Icetail mewed. "Sometimes the weak can be useful." Finn explained slyly. "I threatened him to be loyal to us, or else I wouldn't mind to lay a claw on him and his kits."

Sunpaw couldn't listen anymore. He jumped down the tree, making some leaves rustle and ran. *I can't believe this!*

My friends are traitors!

Chapter 7

Faint dawn light flickered in the den. Moonpaw twitched her ear and stood, shaking moss from her fur. At night, she had went to Starclan unexpectedly to find Sun hunting. She had asked him about the prophecy. "That's about the clan, right?" Moonpaw had mewed. "That's for you to find out." Sun replied briefly and went back to hunting.

Crystalpaw yawned and stretched. "Morning, Moonpaw." she greeted. She turned her head to the entrance. "Oh...it isn't dawn quite yet." Crystalpaw looked at Moonpaw. "Can't you sleep?" she asked. Moonpaw shook her head, too tired to speak. "Want to go for a walk?" she offered. "With me?"

The littermates slid through a small hole behind the apprentices' den. They were out in the open, outside the thorn barrier. "I told you the hole would be useful!" Crystalpaw meowed. Moonpaw suddenly got energetic. "Race you to the border!" And she was off. Pelting through the trees, she quickly outran her sister, with wind buffeting her fur. *This is the reason why I like this forest!* Summoning all her energy, she leaped as far as she could and landed squarely behind the border. She lifted her chin, only to see Crystalpaw next to her already. Moonpaw was astonished. "How did you arrive her without me noticing?" Crystalpaw giggled. "I climbed a tree and jumped from tree to tree!"

Suddenly Crystalpaw was alert. "What's wrong?" Moonpaw whispered. Her sister angled her ears towards two shapes of cats. Dropping into a crouch, they crept towards the shadows. Getting a closer look behind the bushes, Moonpaw saw a pale tabby with dark patches and a golden pelt. Both of their pelts were covered in mud. "Why mud?" she murmured. "To cover their scent." Crystalpaw replied briskly.

Another cat emerged from the moors. *Finn!* Petalfur snorted. "How *long* did it take you to talk to your kin?" Finn blinked. "Well, I'm here. They all stand by my side, but I have my doubts for

Spottedfur." "He's your kin, you shouldn't doubt him." Cedartail meowed, sounding a bit appalled. His golden pelt shined in the first of dawn light. "What about Bloodclan? When will we meet them?" asked Petalfur. *Bloodclan?* Moonpaw wondered. Hearing the word "blood" for part of the name of a clan made her shiver. *Why would they want to meet such a clan?* "I'll tell you when necessary." meowed Finn.

"Now, we need a distraction. Let's think of how we can weaken the clans, along with this hot weather." instructed Finn.

"Come on, let's go, before everyone notices that you're missing."

A/N
So sorry that this chapter is so short! It's just to tell you that Moonpaw found out the truth about Finn. Anyways, hope you still enjoyed this! :)

Chapter 8

Days went by after Sunpaw knew that his clanmates were a traitor. When he was a kit, he had admired Blackear's ferocity, how he gave his enemies serious scratches, how he sent them flying, and how he ended of the battle with Moonclan easily a long time ago when he was a kit. He admired Spottedfur's gentleness when he plays with kits, and Icetail's scheming mind when he suggested using garlic to cover one's scent when Sunclan wanted to invade Moonclan at the time a loner named Sol was here.

But they weren't the same cat anymore, not the cats Sunpaw once admired. They're *all* traitors. Every time he saw one of the Bloodclan cats, he turned away, or when they talked to him, he'd give a curt nod and hurried away, trying not to be obvious.

Harefire, the clan deputy, padded up to him. "Sunpaw, I want you to join a hunting patrol." "Who will I be with?" he asked. "Birdpaw, Dawndusk, Thornleaf, Frostwing and Blackear—" "*Blackear?"* Sunpaw echoed. Harefire tipped his head. "Sunpaw, you've been avoiding Blackear and his littermates for quite a while. I thought you liked them." "I don't *like* them." Sunpaw grumbled. Harefire gave him a stern and long look. "Sunpaw," he began,"I don't know what happened, and I don't need to know. Just to tell you that a hunting patrol is a part of clan life." "I know that." Sunpaw mumbled and stomped away to the patrol.

Sunpaw was stalking a rabbit. He pounced when he thought the distance of him and the prey was enough. The rabbit saw him right before he landed. Swiftly, Sunpaw scooped up the rabbit and sent it flying, nipping it on the neck when it landed. Once the prey went limp, Blackear appeared. "Hmm. You're quite fast. But I think you need to judge the distance of your prey a bit better." he suggested. Sunpaw turned. "I don't need your help!" he snapped. "You're not my mentor!" "Sunpaw, what's gotten into you?" Thornleaf chided. Sunpaw growled, "Nothing! Leave me alone!" Sometimes, he just wanted to scream in Nightstar's ear, or at the Gathering, stand on

the Cliffrock and yell,"*Someone among us are disloyal!"* Sometimes he wanted to slap Finn in the face with a fish and say,"You're a rouge! What are you doing here? You're not welcome!"

Well, he can't. Not yet. But he will.

"Two rabbits and mice!" Icetail reported to Nightstar when they got to camp. Thornleaf padded up to him. "Battle training tomorrow." he meowed. Sunpaw was grateful for dropping the subject of him being rude. Kits were playing in the clearing, elders were basking in the sun, warriors were sharing tongues, apprentices play-fighting. Just when Sunpaw thought the camp couldn't be more peaceful, Feathersky and Mousecloud bust through the entrance, chest heaving and fur ruffled. "There're two foxes!" Mousecloud panted. Just after he finished, two adult foxes stormed into camp.

Nightstar climbed up onto the Clanrock and yowled,"Sunclan, attack!" and leaped down, landing squarely on a fox's back. Warriors and apprentices joined the fight. Nightstar bit down hard on the fox's shoulder, while others clawed its tail. The fox flung himself upward, and with the force, all cats clinging onto him fell to the ground. More warriors attacked it. Sunpaw went to the other fox and clawed at its nose and ears. The intruder snapped at him, forcing him to jerk away. Quickly swiping the fox's forepaws, he unbalanced it and it collapsed. Sunpaw clung onto the fox while other held it down, biting and scoring blows on its flank.

Sunpaw glanced around, hoping no cat would notice. He saw his fear come true; Blackear, Icetail and Spottedfur was scampering towards a tree, looking down at the battle without helping. No cat noticed them too, since they were covered by the leaves' shadows. *Typical way to betray a clan.* Sunpaw thought and continued to batter at the fox's ears until the scratch was deep.

Time seemed to slow down. Sunpaw could clearly see how seriously wounded the foxes were. And that might be what traitors would get.

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SPOTTEDFUR'S POV

The invasion of the foxes were already bad enough for Spottedfur and the clan. Whats worse, Blackear, Icetail and him actually *leaded* them into the clan. Now they were looking down from their hiding spot, doing nothing. *That's not being loyal to the clan!*

Finn, their father, plotted this plan to weaken the clan. There was a rustle in the trees, but they just kept talking. A tiny flash of orange and white appeared in the corner of his eye. He had turned, and immediately knew who that was. *Sunpaw...* Since Blackear and Icetail agreed on the plan, Spottedfur was forced to nod. Blackear went on patrol for distraction, and Icetail and him went to find a faraway fox den secretly. *What have I done?*

Blackear stood. "It's almost time to drive the foxes out. Finn said we can't leave them all dead. One died already." Shocked, Spottedfur glanced around the camp nervously, hoping his brother was wrong. A white-and-brown-furred tom lay on the clearing, lifeless. Fury raged through Spottedfur. "How could you do this to Oakfoot?" Blackear shrugged. "One weak and useless cat gone." Icetail narrowed her eyes. "Are you on our side, or is friendship overwhelming you too much?" she questioned. "Doesn't it hurt to see one of your clanmates *die*?" challenged Spottedfur. "Every cat dies eventually." Blackear replied casually, as if nothing happened.

Traitor! Spottedfur shouted I his mind. *One day, when I have a chance, I'll give you a memorable lesson!* Looking down, he saw Sunpaw fighting vigorously like a warrior, defending his clan as if it were his life.

If there's one cat who understands my feelings, it's Sunpaw.

A/N Hope you liked the extra POV! :)

Chapter 9

"Moonpaw? You're going on sunhigh patrol." Leopardspots called from the apprentices' den entrance. Reluctant, Moonpaw slowly rose, glancing back longingly at her moss nest when she headed out. Crystalpaw was fast asleep. Since greenleaf came, the weather has been so hot and dry, and warriors have been trying to avoid duties, burying their noses into the nest. Cometstar padded down his den from the Clanrock. "Who's in the patrol?" he asked. "Only Leopardspots, Moonpaw, Blossompatch and me." Birchstripe reported. The clan leader sighed. "Our warriors have been coming up with excuses to stay in their nests. I can't force them out either. What do I do?" Cometstar turned to Leopardspots and her patrol. "Thanks for participating twice in patrols today." Moonpaw was shocked. *Twice? How come I didn't know?* she wondered. *Maybe because I was asleep! Lazy furball!* she told herself silently.

It was not long after Birchstripe started to limp. Other cats noticed too. Blossompatch spoke. "Birchstripe? Are you okay?" Birchstripe nodded, determination sparkling in his eyes. Moonpaw could see that he was trying to hide his limping. When they neared the border, Birchstripe almost collapsed. Blossompatch let him lean on her shoulder, but didn't question him anymore. Leopardspots seemed to be getting weak too, her pelt ruffled and eyes dull. *What is going on?* Moonpaw thought.

Whatever they got, it started getting worse by the time they got to camp. Moonpaw trotted to the apprentices' den. But when she was halfway there, she heard gasps of shock. Jerking her head around, she saw Birchstripe fall to the ground. The cats were emerging from their dens, eyes widening.

"Birchstripe!" a warrior exclaimed.

"Is he okay?" Blossompatch fretted.

"Some cat call Cometstar, quick!" Moonpaw didn't even notice Crystalpaw was by her side until she spoke.

Moonpaw was fully awake now. She scrambled to the top of the cliff where Cometstar's den is. She opened her jaws to cal the clan leader, but he was already brushing past her, giving her an understanding nod. Moonpaw bounded after him. Hollyshade, the medicine cat, hurried over and crouched beside Birchstripe, whose flank was heaving rapidly. Hollyshade touched him with her forepaw, but immediately jerked away. Concern washed over Moonpaw. Cometstar tried to prod the warrior awake, but his paw didn't stay on Birchstripe's flank for two heartbeats. "What is it?" Blossompatch asked urgently. Hollyshade shook her head helplessly. "This is not a sickness I have ever seen. His pelt is very hot, and his heartbeat is rapid, and he's sweating. All I know is that he got to hot because of the sun, but greenleaf has never been so hot before..."
Cometstar turned to her. "What should we do now?"

"A few cats can get moss soaked in water, while another group just collect moss and bring it to my den *immediately*." Hollyshade ordered. Blossompatch was already rushing towards the exit of the camp, with a few cats on her heels. Moonpaw dashed after them. *What is going on? Will Birchstripe die? When will he wake up?* Moonpaw's mind whirled. That's when she noticed her mentor staggering behind her.

"Leopardspots?" Moonpaw fell in beside her. "Leopardspots, why are you out here? You seem tired—"

"I don't need an apprentice to feel *sorry* for me!" Leopardspots snapped. Moonpaw stiffened. *She has never been so irritated before!* But seeing her mentor in this state makes Moonpaw more worried and determined.

"Leopardspots, go back to your den and rest! I need a healthy, strong mentor to teach me."

"You sound like Hollyshade." Leopardspots grumbled. She sighed. "I guess I do feel stressed out." The spotted she-cat turned and started heading back to camp.

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Leopardspots POV

Every paw step seemed like a stone thumping onto the ground, but forced to be lifted up again. Leopardspots's view was blurred, and she felt dizzy. *What's happening...?* The sun beamed on her, and it felt like it was focusing only on her, absorbing all the water. Her heart was thumping so rapidly as if it wanted to escape out of her throat, and her breathing were gasps. *Am I dying?*

Lying down beside a tree in the middle of nowhere, Leopardspots closed her eyes. *Just taking a small nap...a small one. Maybe I'll be better when I wake up.*

Everything beside her was blocked, shut down: the leaves rustling, the scents, her vision.

She only waited for the clear view of starry cats.

A/N
Ok, you're probably like "really? Another extra POV?" Yes, and I'll be adding these randomly in the book. So as usual, hope you liked this chapter! :)

Chpater 10

Wind brushed past Sunpaw's fur. It was stronger than usual. He blinked open his eyes. Still tired from the moonhigh patrol, he stretched and stifled a yawn. Looking up, Sunpaw could see the sky, barley covered by the branches of the roof. Outside the den, cats who were mourning for Oakfoot at night were starting to go back to their dens. Some started to fix the broken dens. Feathersky, Olivewater and Maplefur were getting ready to bury the elder. Nightstar was still grieving, since Oakfoot and the clan leader had been friends for a long time. Nodding to the three warriors, Nightstar went, head and tail drooping. Sunpaw walked towards the warriors and offered,"Can I help?"

A while later after burying Oakfoot and arriving back to camp, Sunpaw saw Harefire, the clan deputy, Nightstar, and Pearlwing pushed their way through the thorn barrier. He didn't notice Bluepaw standing beside him. "Let's hope they do find evidence of what led the foxes into our camp." meowed Bluepaw. Sunpaw snapped his head around. "Don't sneak up on me!" Bluepaw's tail curled up I amusement. "I thought your ears were the best in the clan!" she joked. Sunpaw lightly cuffed her ear. "I want to follow the patrol, wanna come?" Bluepaw invited. Sunpaw nodded and they tracked the patrol down.

It wasn't long before the two apprentices picked up a scent that wasn't a cat's. "Fox!" Bluepaw's neck fur started to rise. "Sheathe your claws, Bluepaw, the scent's stale." Sunpaw pointed out. Their ears pricked up when they heard voices. "Nightstar, look at what I found!" Harefire called alarmingly. Sunpaw and Bluepaw climbed the nearest tree, making as least sound as possible. Peering through the gaps of the leaves, Sunpaw saw a tuft of tortoiseshell fur stuck to some brambles. He heard a faint gasp beside him. "*Spottedfur?*" Bluepaw whispered. Sunpaw nodded. But one thing doesn't make sense. Icetail was the most scheming cat in the three littermates, and Blackear seemed brave enough to approach a fox. Pearlwing's mew jerked Sunpaw back to the present. "What do we do now?"

"What *can* we do?" Nightstar sighed. "One of our warriors *lured* a fox —no, *two* foxes into the clan." "That might not be evidence that a cat brought foxes to camp. It might be evidence that the cat *saw* what happened." Harefire meowed thoughtfully. "I'm going to ask him about this." decided Nightstar.

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Nightstar's POV

Nightstar buried his nose. He was curled up in his nest. The vines rustled and a she-cat padded in, her sandy-grey pelt shimmering in the moonlight. Nightstar raised his head. "Hi Pearlwing." he greeted as she touched noses with him. She dropped the mouse she was carrying. "Here's your night snack. Are you still thinking of Spottedfur?" she asked, concerned. Nightstar admitted as Pearlwing sat down,"Yes." The she-cat nudged him, her blue gaze filled with affection.

"Oh, get that off of your mind for once. Clan problems do matter, but sometimes you need a rest."

"Like a walk?" he suggested. Instantly Nightstar stood and brushed past Pearlwing. The two cats bounded down the rocks of the Clanrock.

During the stroll, they caught prey, such as two rabbits and thrushes. Now they were sitting beside the stream that marked the border. Not far from the shore, the medicine cats, Shimmeringpool, Hollyshade and her apprentice, Applepaw, we're heading to the Mooncave to meet their ancestors. The clans' moonhigh patrol were patrolling, as usual. "I wish it were this peaceful forever." Pearlwing mewed longingly. "It will be." promised the clan leader.

The cats stared at the view, silent, for a few moments. The breeze flattened their fur. The only sound was the stream flowing. "Come on, let's go, or else your night snack would become not as juicy as the fresh-kill we just caught." Pearlwing broke the silence. Nightstar suddenly remembered the mouse he left untouched. Pelts brushing, they headed back to camp, enjoying the scenery.

The peaceful walk lasted faster than Nightstar had expected. He picked up a terribly familiar scent. *I thought he was gone for good! He kept disappearing and one sunrise he was gone...* "You smell it too?" Pearlwing echoed his thoughts. "I knew it! I do smell him!" Nightstar exclaimed.

"It's Finn!"